

## INDIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS FOR THE HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT OF VARIOUS SKIN AILMENTS\*

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Homoeopathic system offers high and efficient cure for skin diseases. Homoeopathic drugs treat the ailments on the basis of the law of similia viz., "Similia Similibus Curentur", the law of direction of cure, the law of single remedy and the law of minimum dose. Skin ailments are considered mostly as constitutional diseases. Homoeopathic system of medicine relieves the symptoms after strengthening the defence mechanism of patient without internal disturbances.

In Homoeopathy, the medicines prepared from plant origin play an important role for treatment against various clinical indications related to skin affections. The present study comprises of 81 species under 79 genera and 49 families, which are used for various skin disorders in homoeopathic system of medicine. The plants are mentioned in alphabetical order with their valid names, family, common name, part used and distribution. An attempt has been made to indicate the specific symptoms pertaining to skin affection against each plant, on the basis of authoritative homoeopathic literature (Books consulted mentioned below serially). The plant not found in the wild state but introduced and cultivated in gardens are marked with an asterisk (\*). The aim of this article is to present a consolidated spectrum of indigenous and exotic plants with their specific part used for the treatment of various skin diseases through homoeopathy. This list will serve as a tool for the benefit of homoeopathic drug manufacturers, homoeopaths and researchers for utilisation of plant wealth, and further pharmacological and clinical studies.

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S.NO.	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	PART USED	DISTRIBUTION	CLINICAL INDICATIONS	CITATION HOMOEOPATHIC LITERATURE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L. (Papilionaceae)	Jequirity	Seeds	Common throughout India.	Epithelioma & lupus.	4,5
2.	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> L. (Compositae)	Milfoil	Whole plant	Kashmir to Kumaon, Shimla and in Nilgiris.	Suppressed itching on skin.	1,5
3.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Prickly chaff flower	Whole plant	Common throughout India.	Boils, carbuncle, vesicular painful eruption with pus formation.	3,7
4.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa (Rutaceae)	Bael tree	Leaves & fruits	Found almost throughout India.	Itching with or without eruptions, papular eruptions.	2,3
5*	<i>Allium cepa</i> L. (Liliaceae)	Onion	Bulbs	Cultivated throughout India.	Burning skin.	1,2,4,5,6
6*	<i>Allium sativum</i> L. (Liliaceae)	Garlic	Bulbs	Cultivated throughout India.	Swelling with itching.	1,2,4,5,6
7*	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Cashew nut tree	Black juice	Cultivated in the hotter parts of India.	Erysipelas, blisters and swelling on the skin.	2,5
8.	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> L. (Primulaceae)	Scarlet pimpernel	Whole plant	Found throughout India.	Dry skin of hands and itching.	1,4,5,6
9.	<i>Anamirta cocculus</i> L. (Menispermaceae)	Fish berries	Seeds	Assam, Bengal, Khasia Hills, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.	Intense itching, pimpular eruption.	1,2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10*	<i>Apium graveolens</i> L. (Umbelliferae)	Celery	Seeds with spike	Cultivated in gardens.	Red elevated pimples & intense itching.	1,2,5,6
11*	<i>Atropa belladonna</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Belladonna	Whole plant	Cultivated in temperate region.	Skin eruptions like scarlatina.	1,2,4,5,6
12.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss. (Meliaceae)	Neem tree	Bark	Found throughout India.	Itching, burning & prickling.	2,5,7,9
13*	<i>Bellis perennis</i> L. (Compositae)	Daisy	Whole plant	Cultivated in Nilgiris.	Dermatalgia & burning pain in skin.	1,2,5,6,9
14*	<i>Brassica nigra</i> (L.) Koch (Cruciferae)	Black mustard	Seeds	Cultivated throughout India.	Skin turns red, burning heat & stitches in skin.	1,2,6
15.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae)	Calotropis	Root bark & milky juice	Throughout India.	Leprosy & blotches on the skin.	1,2,4,5,6
16*	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) Kuntze <i>Thea sinensis</i> L. (Theaceae)	Tea plant	Leaves	Cultivated in the hilly regions of North and South India.	Skin dry, eruptions of red colour & prickling in different parts.	1,6
17.	<i>Cassia sophora</i> L. (Caesalpiniaceae)	Senna sophora	Root	Found throughout India.	Urticaria, worse in dry conditions and at night.	2,3
18.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban Hydrocotyle asiatica L. (Umbelliferae)	Indian pennywort	Whole plant	Found throughout India.	Leprosy and erythema on face.	1,2,6,7
19*	<i>Cephaelis ipecacuanha</i> (Brot.) A. Rich (Rubiaceae)	Ipecac	Root	Cultivated in Darjeeling, Sikkim & Nilgiris.	Miliary eruptions and violent itching.	1,5,6,8
	<i>Cinchona officinalis</i> L. (Rubiaceae)	Peruvian bark	Bark	Cultivated in Nilgiris & Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu.	Skin yellow, flabby and dry. Burning & itching.	1,2,5,6,8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21*	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> L. Nees & Eberm <i>Laurus camphora</i> L. (Lauraceae)	Camphor tree	Gum	Cultivated in Nilgiris, Dehradun, Bangalore & Calcutta.	Erysipelatous inflammation and dryness.	1,2,6
22.	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> L. Voigt <i>Cephalandra indica</i> Naud. (Cucurbitaceae)	Ivy gourd	Leaves	Distributed in the plains of India.	Skin affections.	7
23.	<i>Coffea arabica</i> L. (Rubiaceae)	Arabian coffee	Raw berries	Cultivated in South India.	Eruptions (Measles) and hypersensitive.	5
24*	<i>Crocus sativus</i> L. (Iridaceae)	Saffron	Stigmas & young shoots	Cultivated in Kashmir.	Pricking, crawling, burning & tingling in skin.	1,4,5,6
25*	<i>Croton tiglium</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Purgative croton	Oil from the seeds	Cultivated in Bengal, Assam & South India.	Eczema of whole body & skin affections.	1,4,5,6
26.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> L. Pers. (Graminae)	Bahama grass	Whole Plant	Found throughout India.	Scabies, itching, eruption on whole body, aggravation by cold and at night.	2,3,9
27.	<i>Daphne papyracea</i> Wall. ex Steud. <i>D. odora</i> Thunb. (Thymelaeaceae)	Sweet-scented spurge laurel	Bark	Western Himalayas and Garhwal.	Leprosy.	4,6
28*	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> L. (Scrophulariaceae)	Foxglove	Leaves	Cultivated in Kashmir, Darjeeling & Nilgiris.	General paleness of the skin, cyanosis, itching, pricking.	1,2,4,6
29*	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i> Jacq. (Palmae)	African oil palm	Fruit	Planted in Indian gardens.	Leprosy & skin affections.	1,6
30*	<i>Erythroxylum coca</i> Lam. (Erythroxylaceae)	Coca	Leaves	Cultivated in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bengal and Ranchi plateau.	Scarlatina-like rash over body especially the neck.	1,2,6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31*	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> Labill. (Myrtaceae)	Blue gum tree	Leaves	Cultivated throughout India.	Eruptions of an herpetic character & glandular enlargement.	1,2,5,6
32*	<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> Moench. (Polygonaceae)	Buck wheat	Whole plant	Cultivated in Himalayan region & Nilgiris of South India.	Eczema & skin dermatalgia.	1,4,5,6
33*	<i>Ferula narthex</i> Boiss, <i>Narthex asafoetida</i> Falc. (Umbelliferae)	Asafoetida	Gum (resin)	Planted in Kashmir.	Itching & burning of skin.	2,6,8
34.	<i>Fragaria vesca</i> L. (Rosaceae)	Strawberry	Fruit	Cultivated in cooler parts of India like Nilgiris.	Erysipetulous eruptions and petechial eruptions.	1,5
35.	<i>Garcinia morella</i> (Gaertn.) Desr. (Guttiferae)	Indian gamboge tree	Gum (resin)	Khasia Hills & Western Ghats.	Itching & blisters on hands.	1,2,6
36*	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> L. (Compositae)	Sun flower	Flower heads & seeds.	Cultivated throughout India.	Urticaria, eruptions like-pimples & tingling of skin.	1,5,6
37*	<i>Hippomane mancinella</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Hippomanes	Leaves, bark & fruit	Growing in Indian gardens.	Redness of skin (hand) & fungoid growth, especially syphilitic.	1,4,5,6
38*	<i>Humulus lupulus</i> L. (Cannabaceae)	Hops	Seeds	Cultivated in Kashmir and Bangalore.	Scarlatina-like erythema on face & pustules.	1,2,4,6
39.	<i>Hygrophilla auriculata</i> (Schum. Heine) <i>H. spinosa</i> T. Ander. (Acanthaceae)	Talmakhana	Whole plant	Found throughout India in moist places.	Skin diseases.	7
40.	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> L. (Papilionaceae)	Indigo	Plant juice	Found throughout India.	Itching of skin with constipation.	1,2,6

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41*	<i>Iris germanica</i> L. (Iridaceae)	Blue Garden iris	Rhizome	Cultivated in Himalayan region & Nilgiris.	Freckles, yellow & brownish macules developing on the exposed part of skin.	1,6
42.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Purging nut	Seeds	Planted as a hedge plant in tropical regions.	Skin affections.	1,4,6
43*	<i>Juglans regia</i> L. (Juglandaceae)	European walnut	Leaves & rind of green fruit	Found in Himalayan region & Nilgiris.	Erythema & skin affections.	1,4,5,6
44*	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i> L. Medicus Cytisus laburnum L. (Fabaceae)	Laburnum	Bark & seeds	Cultivated in Nilgiris & Kodaikanal in South India.	Paleness of skin.	1,6,8
45.	<i>Lactuca sativa</i> L. (Compositae)	Lettuce	Whole plant	Cultivated throughout India.	Eruptions, oedematous swellings.	1,6
46.	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link (Labiatae)	Gopha	Whole plant	Found throughout India.	Skin troubles.	2,7
47*	<i>Lilium tigrinum</i> Ker-Gawl. (Liliaceae)	Tiger lily	Whole plant	Cultivated in Indian gardens.	Irritation of chest, itching & burning	1,4,5,6
48*	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L. (Linaceae)	Linseed	Seeds	Cultivated throughout India.	Urticaria, stinging & burning.	1,5,6
49*	<i>Lobelia inflata</i> L. (Lobeliaceae)	Indian tobacco	Whole plant with seed	Cultivated in Darjeeling and Nilgiris in South India.	Psoriasis & prickling, itching, all over the body.	1,2,5,6
50.	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i> L. (Lycopodiaceae)	Clubmoss	Whole plant with spores	Himalayan region and Western Ghats of South India.	Dermatalgia, eczema and epithelioma.	1,2,4,5,6,8
51*	<i>Majorana hortensis</i> Moench <i>Origanum majorana</i> L. (Labiatae)	Sweet marjoram	Whole plant	Cultivated in high altitude & Nilgiris in South India.	Pale & red spots on legs, painful red pimples.	1,5,6

52.	<i>Mallotus atrovirens</i> Muell - Arg. <i>Croton coccineus</i> Wall. (Euphorbiaceae)	Kamala	Red powder of capsules.	Western Ghats, forests of Cochin & Travancore.	Leprosy & skin affections.	4,6
53*	<i>Mentha piperita</i> L. (Labiatae)	Peppermint	Whole plant	Cultivated in Indian gardens.	Pimples with much itching near ears & hands.	1,2,4,5,6
54.	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (L.) DC. (Papilionaceae)	Cow-itch	Pods	Found almost throughout India.	Intolerable itching on whole body and eruptions.	1,5,6
55*	<i>Myristica fragrans</i> Houtt. (Myristicaceae)	Nutmeg tree	Seeds & mace	Cultivated in South India, Assam & subtropical regions of India.	Cold & dry skin, psoriasis, bluish spots on the skin.	1,2,5,6,8
56.	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L. <i>N. odorum</i> Sol. (Asclepiadaceae)	Sweet scented oleander	Leaves	Cultivated throughout India.	Eczema, itching & burning of skin.	1,2,5,6
57*	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Tobacco	Leaves	Cultivated in many parts of India.	Eruptions -like pimples with itching	1,2,5,6
58*	<i>Oenothera biennis</i> L. (Onagraceae)	Evening primrose	Whole plant	Cultivated in Nilgiris and Kodaikanal.	Numbness & prickling of entire surface.	1,6
59.	<i>Opuntia vulgaris</i> Mill. (Cactaceae)	Prickly pear	Stem & flowers	Found throughout India.	Pimpular eruptions on neck.	1,2,6
60*	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> L. (Papaveraceae)	Opium poppy	Gum of capsule	Cultivated throughout India.	Erythema, eruptions & bluish skin.	1,2,6
61.	<i>Persicaria nepalensis</i> (Meiss.) Gross. <i>Polygonum punctatum</i> Buch. - Ham. (Polygonaceae)	Smart weed	Whole plant	Himalayan region and Nilgiris of South India.	Eczema, skin dry, itching & burning.	1,4,6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62*	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i> (Meiss.) Airy-Shaw <i>P. sativum</i> Hoffm. (Umbelliferae)	Parsley	Whole plant	Cultivated in Himalayan region & Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu.	Urticaria	4,6
63*	<i>Piper nigrum</i> L. (Piperaceae)	Black pepper	Fruits	Cultivated in subtropical regions of India.	Pustules on face, eczema on lips and itching.	1,2,5,6
64*	<i>Primula obconica</i> Hance (Primulaceae)	Primrose	Whole plant	Growing in temperate regions & Nilgiris of South India.	Eczema, eruptions and itching.	4,5,6
65*	<i>Prunus persica</i> (L.) Batsch <i>Amygdalus persica</i> L. (Rosaceae)	Peach	Leaves, Bark & Flowers	Grown in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Nilgiris.	Itching, pricking and formation of skin.	1,5,6
66.	<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i> L. (Ranunculaceae)	Marsh crow foot	Whole plant	Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.	Vesicular eruptions, itching, biting & tingling in various parts.	1,6
67.	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L. (Cruciferae)	Radish	Whole plant with root	Cultivated throughout India.	Itching & heat of skin, and scratching.	2,5,6
68*	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L. (Papilionaceae)	False acacia	Young twigs, stem & root bark & beans	Grown in Kodaikanal of Tamil Nadu.	Whole body covered by urticaria.	1,2,6
69.	<i>Rumex crispus</i> L. (Polygonaceae)	Curled dock	Root	Mount Abu in Rajasthan & Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu.	Itching in various parts, eruptions, urticaria.	1,2,4,5,6
70*	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L. (Caprifoliaceae)	Black elder	Leaves and Flowers	Cultivated in Indian gardens.	Blotches on face, red spots on cheeks with burning sensation.	1,2,6,8
71.	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Marking nut tree	Fruit	Subtropical regions of India.	Burning and itching.	1,2,5,6,8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
72*	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Woody night-shade	Stem & Leaves	Temperate Himalayas from Kashmir to Sikkim & Nilgiris.	Dryness, eruption, warts and tetter in joints.	1,2,4,5,8
73.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Black night-shade	Whole plant	Common throughout India.	Scarlatina, itching, burning of extremities.	1,2,4,5,6
74.	<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill. (Caryophyllaceae)	Chick weed	Whole plant	Common weed of temperate regions of India.	Psoriasis.	5
75.	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i> L. (Loganiaceae)	Snake-wood	Seeds	Tropical regions of India upto 360 M.	Eruptions with burning, itching & pimpular eruptions.	1,2,4,5,6,8
76.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> (Weber) Wiggers (Compositae)	Dandelion	Whole plant	Temperate Himalayan regions, Nilgiris and Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu.	Eruption over the body & itching severely.	2,5,6,8,9
77.	<i>Taxus baccata</i> L. (Taxaceae)	Yew	Young shoots & berries	Temperate Himalayan region.	Erysipelas, itching pustules.	1,2,4,5,6
78*	<i>Veratrum viride</i> Aiton (Liliaceae)	American hellebore	Root	Cultivated in Jammu & Kashmir.	Erythema, erysipelas, congestive stage of exanthema.	1,2,4,5,6
79.	<i>Vinca minor</i> L. (Apocynaceae)	Lesser periwinkle	Whole plant	Temperate regions of India.	Eczema.	1,4,5,6
80*	<i>Viola tricolor</i> (Violaceae)	Pansy, heartsease	Whole plant	Cultivated in gardens.	Eczema, eruptions, particularly over face with burning & itching.	1,6
81.	<i>Viscum album</i> L. (Loranthaceae)	Mistletoe	Whole plant	Temperate Himalayas from Kashmir to Nepal.	Skin dry and burning, red spot on neck.	1,2,4,5,6,9